

The Boy Who Returned From The Sea

By Clay Morgan

This book, which is a sequel to *The Boy Who Spoke Dog*, focuses on Jack returning to the island where the sheep and sheep dogs were left to fend for themselves after Jack was kidnapped. But Blackburn Jules, an evil crook, also comes to the island and takes Jack prisoner. Moxie, his Border Collie dog, helps Jack escape, with the help of some very unlikely allies.

I recommend this book for grades four through six in any library. I love animals and I really liked this book. The love and connection between people and their pets is always interesting to me. Jack is very resourceful in how he escapes from Jules and kids should enjoy that. I would recommend that the first book, *The Boy Who Spoke Dog*, be read first. It took a chapter or so to figure out what had happened to Jack and the animals left on the island.

-Deb Daehnke, WSC

Bug Boy

By Eric Luper

Fifteen-year-old Jack Walsh has realized his dream of becoming a jockey. But an ex mentor who abused him, wants Jack to throw a big race. His girlfriend complicates things and when his father shows up after not seeing him for three years, the decisions Jack has to make become even more difficult.

I recommend this book for upper middle school or junior high students in any library. This book kept me on the edge of my seat. If you like horses, you'll want to read this. There's enough romance that should intrigue female readers even if they don't like horses or the race track. Several cautions for young readers, Jack briefly relates to his father that he was raped by his mentor, and there are sexual innuendos that might be too much for young readers or parents might find inappropriate.

-Deb Daehnke, WSC

Slob

By Ellen Potter

Owen Birnbaum has it pretty rough. He's fat, someone is stealing his Oreos every day, his P.E. teacher hates him, the new psycho seems to have it in for him, and he is usually the butt of everyone's jokes. Despite all of this, Owen keeps going on. He's building a machine that should help him unravel his life's greatest mystery. Whether or not he completes the machine, catches the thief, or avoids the wrath of the P.E. teacher and the psycho remains to be seen. While not a great or outstanding read, "Slob" is tolerable and easy to read.

Appropriate for junior high/middle school readers using their school library or the public library. Not a bad purchase, but if funds are tight, I might hold out for a better purchase.

Shiver

By Maggie Stiefvater

This is the “Twilight” series for werewolves. Although popular (it’s highest ranking so far is 5th on *Publisher’s Weekly*), it is far from being good literature. Grace, a high school student stalked for years by the werewolf Sam, is a coffee swilling gourmet cook. Sam, in his last year of being human, looks for a cure so he can stay with Grace forever. At least the “Twilight” characters were believable and you could relate to them and their characteristics. Grace and Sam are both far too mature to be realistic characters. Another thing that this book lacks is the sexual tension that Meyer’s builds between Bella and Edward. Sam and Grace have sex about three-quarters of the way through the book. Where’s the sexual tension in that? “Shiver” is the first book in what is to be a series.

Based on popularity, I would purchase this for young adult readers using their school library or the public library. If I purchased books based on literary value, “Shiver” would have no place in the collection.

The Crimson Cap

By Ellen Howard

The great French explorer Rene-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle has asked ten-year-old Pierre Talon, to join his searching expedition to relocate the Mississippi River, because of Pierre’s talent of sign language with the natives Indians. His mother gives him a crimson cap that she had knitted for his father to bring good fortune and courage. So leaving behind mother, sister and 4 brothers Pierre starts on his adventure always hoping he will find out what happened to his disappearing father. The expedition soon unravels with murder amongst the travelers and Pierre’s own illness, Pierre finds himself in the village of the Hasinai Indians. He eventually has to decide if he will stay with the Hasinai or go back to the settlement.

Based on actual historical facts and events this interesting book will keep 6th grade and up readers turning page after page. I think that this volume should be in all school libraries and a must read for those studying early exploration of the New World.

-Pat Thompson WSC

Looking for Normal

By Betty Monthei

Annie and Ted’s Daddy can’t seem to hold a job. He resents getting help from his in-laws because they looked down on him when Mamma and he had to get married young. Daddy has been drinking more and more. He yells at them a lot and hits Mamma.

One day, the principal calls Annie and Ted out of class. Their stern grandmother is there to take them to live with her and quiet grandpa. Daddy shot Mamma and then himself. Life will never be the same.

The author writes this sad story with sensitivity and empathy. It almost seems that it came from personal experience.

The affects of alcohol and spousal abuse causes loss of love and life.

This may be a story to share with someone, who has lost someone because of similar circumstances. Its content is more for a middle or high school student. The reading level is 5.2.

-Claudette Wielechowski, North Platte, NE

Hank the Cowdog and the Quest for the Great White Quail

By John Erickson

This book is about the silly and funny dog, Hank's adventures in "security" on his ranch and this particular search ends with him finding Plato the birddog instead of a Quail. Kids in elementary school who like silliness and mystery (though that may be stretching it) will like the Hank books. It is recommended for a public library and is a good leisure reading book.

-Heather Reid (with Isaiah Reid age 8), Home school parent, Omaha, NE

Hank the Cowdog and Drover's Secret Life

By John Erickson

This book is about the silly and funny dog, Hank's adventures in "security" on his ranch and this story details his sidekick, Drover's ambition to write a book about all his adventures that Hank knows nothing about. Kids in elementary school who like silliness and mystery (though that may be stretching it) will like the Hank books. It is recommended for a public library and is a good leisure reading book.

-Heather Reid (with Isaiah Reid age 8), Home school parent, Omaha, NE

Obi

By Michael Delaney

This is a story about a gerbil who gets left at home when her owner leaves for vacation. Her adventures also include staying clear of cats, a snake and a tarantula. This book is an easy, funny read for upper elementary students but younger kids would like to hear it read aloud. This is recommended for a public library.

-Heather Reid (with Isaiah Reid age 8), Home school parent, Omaha, NE

Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Secret Pitch

This is a book with many adventures and mysteries. The "Secret Pitch" is about a boy names Bugs Meany who has a gang and tricks Speedy into thinking that he lost the baseball game and Speedy has to give up his bat. Encyclopedia finds out that Bugs cheated and Speedy gets his bat back. This is an easy read for elementary students. It is good because a child can read just one 'case' or the whole book. This book is recommended for a public library.

-Heather Reid (with Isaiah Reid age 8), Home school parent, Omaha, NE

The Human Body

By Seymour Simon

This is a GREAT book for elementary students. It has great illustrations and photos that help kids understand the somewhat detailed text, but it is all information that is easily understood and explained. It has a glossary, index and a page that details how Simon got the images he used. This is recommended for any school or public collection.

-Heather Reid (with Isaiah Reid age 8), Home school parent, Omaha, NE

The Patron Saint of Butterflies

By Cecilia Galante

Agnes and Honey are polar opposites. Agnes strives to be perfect in an effort to be in Emmanuel's good graces and to become a Saint. Honey wants to be as far from the abusive Emmanuel as possible and leave the religious compound all together. Nana Pete (Agnes' grandmother) takes them from the compound after a horrible accident. Agnes and Honey struggle with life on the "outside" and with each other. Maybe I wasn't paying attention, but I didn't see the twist coming. Overall, this was a good read. It was hard to put down at times.

According to the book jacket and the author's web site, "The Patron Saint of Butterflies" is based on some of the author's own experiences. I would definitely purchase this for the high school or public library.

-Charissa Loftis, WSC

Triskellion

By Will Peterson

Following their parents bitter divorce, Rachel and Adam are sent from New York City to spend the summer with their grandmother in rural England. Once there, the twins learn that Triskellion was named after the strangely shaped Celtic chalk circle on the hillside near the small village. Discovering etchings of the symbol throughout the town peaks the curiosity of Rachel and Adam. However, as they begin investigate its origins and its archeological significance along with their new friend, Gabriel, strange, abnormal things begin to happen. Finally, the twins stumble upon an ancient secret, a secret that in the end will impact them personally and a secret that some in Triskellion will protect at all costs. Adolescents of all ages should enjoy this paranormal mystery story. From the beginning, clues start to reveal themselves, urging you on to read and learn more. A few twists will keep you guessing. However, as you approach the end, the pieces all fall into place.

- Valerie Knight, WSC Library

Gateway

By Sharon Shinn

Seventeen year-old Daiyu lives with her adopted parents in St. Louis. She has always been eager for adventure and to maybe one day visit her place of birth, China. She gets more than she bargains for after she crosses to another world as

she walks beneath the Gateway Arch of St. Louis. There she finds herself in the alternate world of Jia where the Chinese, or Han, are the dominate culture. She quickly learns that she has been brought to this alternate world to help send the Prime Minister, Chenglei, back to his own world and prevent him from spreading his evil on Jai. In order to do this, she must get close enough to place a talisman around his wrist. The only opportunity she will have to do this is at the *Presentation Ball*; so Daiyu must be quickly trained in the etiquette and manners of the elite Han upper-class in order to pass as one of the upper-class Han high-class elite. As she struggles to hide her secret, Daiyn falls in love with Kalen, a lower-class *cangbai* (white) boy. She must decide if she will continue her mission, leaving Kalen behind or go on and possibly lose him forever.

Gateway puts a new twist on the alternate reality genre and would be appropriately paired with studies of caste systems. Teenage girls will be especially drawn toward Daiyu and her forbidden romance with Kalen.

-Valerie Knight, WSC Library

Teen, Inc.

By Stefan Petrucha

When Jaiden Beale's parents are killed, NECorp, the company responsible for their deaths, decides to adopt Jaiden. Now at age fourteen, Jaiden is trying to balance attending public high school and living at NECorp headquarters in his office suite of a bedroom with a team of executives managing his life. What Jaiden wants more than anything is to be normal. However, after the legal department corners and nearly scares off his biology partner and crush, Jenny, giving away his secret, Jaiden unsuccessfully runs away, injuring himself in the process. This episode initiates a series of events that gradually reveals the corporate greed of Jaiden's only "parent," NECorp. Now Jaiden must decide where his loyalties lie and who actually has his best interests in mind.

Students will enjoy this fun and fast paced book. In addition, high school teachers will find great discussion starters here for multiple social issues from adoption to pollution and corporate response. References to George Orwell's *1984* and Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* within the book also provide wonderful comparisons for literature classes. Of course, there are also the traditional benefits of exploring teen angst and friendship.

-Valerie Knight, WSC Library

The Great Paper Caper

By Oliver Jeffers

Someone is cutting down limbs in the forest. Many animals call the trees home. The animals are trying to figure out who is doing this. Little do they know Mr. Bear is cutting the limbs for his paper making machine. He needs the paper because he wants to be the paper airplane champion.

I recommend this book for second and third graders in both school and public libraries. Kids will love the pictures, but

overall, this book was not the best. It used pictures to tell the story, which are hard to interpret.

-Lara Morrow, O'Neill Public School

A Home for Dixie

By Emma Jackson

Dixie has had an unfortunate life until she meets Emma.

Emma has always wanted a dog. When her parents *finally* say yes, her father suggests she go to a place that rescues animals. There she finds Dixie and they become best friends. I recommend this book for first through third graders in both school and public libraries.

This is a cute story for kids with nice pictures. Kids will hopefully learn from this book that their local animal shelter is a great place to find an animal companion.

-Lara Morrow, O'Neill Public School

Anne Frank and Me

By Cherie Bennett

Nicole begins a website that journals her life with her friend Mimi and her crush Jack. They (the students) are learning about the Holocaust and take a field trip to the 'Anne Frank in the World' exhibit. Nicole then time travels to 1942 and lives in her family as a Jew, with her principal in the past as her father, her English teacher as her mother, and many other characters make appearances in her 'dream.' Nicole and her family have to go into hiding and are ultimately betrayed by her boyfriend, who was betrayed by his father killing his brother. Nicole and her sister get put on a train and arrive at a camp where they are put in a shower room and are gassed and die. Nicole reawakens in the modern day and is completely changed for the better. She has a better perspective now, although it was a 'dream.'

I recommend this book for seventh grade and up in both school and public libraries. The book uses a website layout and letters and journals. It could easily be put in the curriculum with Anne Frank. I couldn't stop reading this, it is so captivating.

-Whitney Drahota, WSC Student

Cemetery Street

By Brenda Seabrooke

Nobody wants to live on a street named Cemetery, especially if it is located next to the real thing. Unfortunately, that is what happens to fifteen-year-old Courtney when her mom moves Courtney and her young brother Bucky from New Hampshire to Florida. It is also difficult being the new kid in school, especially without the support of a stable responsible parent.

As Courtney works to find her place in her new community, she becomes a contributor to the school newspaper and develops a friendship with Josh, her good looking lab partner and fellow writer.

The two take on the task of investigation some strange noises and other creepy experiences that originate in the cemetery. When they go looking for Bucky, who left a Halloween party

by himself but doesn't make it home, they all find themselves struggling against the rituals of the satanic spooks.

I recommend this book for sixth grade and up in both school and public libraries. This quick read will appeal to those who enjoy a light mystery infused with playful humor and interspersed with subtle romance. One gruesome description might not be suitable for junior high readers, but other than that, this book offers few controversial challenges. This isn't a deeply developed novel, but the story with its young sleuths brings back memories of Nancy Drew, the Hardy Boys, and happy endings.

-MeMe Smith, Schuyler Public Library

Night Wings

By Joseph Bruchac

Thirteen year old Paul goes to live with his grandfather while his parents are both deployed in the Middle East. When Paul and his Grandpa Peter are kidnapped they use their silent ways of communicating to try to outsmart their kidnappers. Their kidnappers want Paul's grandpa to lead them up Mount Washington to, according to Abenaki legend, the mythical treasures of Pmola. Using the skills of both their native upbringing and the skills of many generations of military training, Grandpa shows Paul how to outsmart their kidnappers and protect the legends of the mountain.

I recommend this book for fifth through eighth graders. It is an accelerated reader that will not only keep the readers interest peaked, but may also have them seeking out more information on Native American tribes and their beliefs.

-Diane Limoges

The Buddha's Diamond

By Carolyn Marsden and Thầy Pháp Niệm

As Tin begins to join his parents, Ba and Ma, at the temple with the monks and the nuns, he learns the chants and starts to find peace within himself. Tinh has a strong need to participate in these rituals at a time in his life when he begins to take on more responsibility helping his Ba feed their family by fishing from their bamboo boat.

However, the transition from a carefree youth spent flying kites and playing on the beach with friends, to that of his father's helper, does not come easily. Tinh's Ba begins to expect Tinh to grow up quickly and take on more responsibility at the same time that a devastating tropical storm affects the whole village.

Tinh struggles to step up to the challenges, but still tries to find opportunities to spend time with friends and retain a youthful perspective on life.

I recommend this book for fourth grade and up in both school and public libraries. However, it may be difficult for youth to relate to the spiritual perspective and strong responsibility expected of the story's protagonist.

The book includes a glossary and pronunciation guide and is definitely needed for the age group for which this book is intended. Also included is an author's note that gives a short history of the founding of Buddhism.

-MeMe Smith, Schuler Public Library

Hate That Cat By Sharon Creech

Jack finds himself in Miss Stretchberry's class keeping a journal of poetry. He writes about a neighborhood cat that he hates. He writes of his uncle who does not like free verse poetry, a fact that does not bother Jack. He writes about his mom whom is deaf and about the cat he gets for Christmas. I recommend this book for fourth through sixth graders. Have you ever been lost in a book? This book will have you at a loss for words to describe just how lame it is. After reading the book twice to see what made it Accelerated Reader quality this reader can only say, "I still don't know."

-Diane Limoges

Soul Enchilada: The Devil is in the Details

By David Macinnis Gill

Eunice "Bug" Smoot gave up a chance at a basketball scholarship to take care of her ailing grandfather. Now she's all alone and nothing seems to be going her way. She's late on her rent and late for work and now her car's been egged. She soon learns that Beals, a supernatural, has come to repo her car. It seems Grandpa found the money to buy the car by selling his soul. The real problem though is that Bug cosigned and since her grandpa is somehow in hiding, Beals has come to get the car and Bug's soul. Pesto, an old classmate, comes to Bug's rescue. He works as a trainee for the ISIS (International Supernatural Immigration Service). Together they work to outsmart the demons to save her soul. I recommend this book for ninth grade and up. Although this young adult read drags from time to time, overall it is a good read.

-Diane Limoges

Dirk Bones and the Mystery of the Missing Books

By Doug Cushman

A newspaper reporter name Dirk Bones interviews a local author about the source of his stories. The author, Edgar Bleek, discovers his new book is gone. Then the reporter discovers books all over town are missing, but just ones by Edgar Bleek. With a few clues and a little luck he figures out what happened and the books get returned.

I recommend this book for first through third graders in both school and public libraries. It would be great for Halloween, has great pictures, and was delightful.

-Elaine Tobias, WSC Student

Umbrella Summer

By Lisa Graff

Annie's brother Jared is dead from a freakish accident. Now Annie, her parents and friends are all trying to cope in different ways. Annie's way is by being hyper-vigilant against all types of accidents. She's on guard against small pox, ebola, bike accidents, food poisoning . . . so much so that she can't live her life. Then she gets a new neighbor who looks rather plain, but is dealing with her own grief. Together they

try to get out from under the umbrella of grief and into the sunshine.

I recommend this book for third through sixth graders in both school and public libraries. It is reminiscent of *Pippi Longstocking* and *Anne of Green Gables*. There are very practical lessons here for kids dealing with their own grief and figuring out how they can help heal from it.

-Elaine Tobias, WSC Student

Lost Time

By Susan Maupin Schmid

This is an intriguing fantasy/science fiction story of twelve-year-old Violyenne Vivant, whose parents had disappeared a year ago while on an archaeology dig site, where they were searching for an ancient city of a race of creatures called the Croon. The Croon no longer live on the planet. No one knows how the Croon mysteriously vanished or where they went.

Her home is broken into and a violin is missing. Then, the ruler of the planet, the Arbiter, wants Violyenne to go to the government run boarding school. Her Aunt Madelyn doesn't want this and makes plans to have Violyenne go to a safe place. Her aunt enlists the aid of a secretive and unsettling being called the Coil.

Aunt Madelyn is arrested. Violyenne escapes and meets a Croon, who gives her a pearl like object that pulses with energy.

Violyenne and her "butler," Einhart, whose technological skills are very helpful, decide to go to the dig site to try to find out what happened to her parents and to try to escape from the clutches of the Arbiter, the Coil, and the Croon. There is an exciting and surprising climax to the story.

Middle school age science fiction/fantasy readers will enjoy this story.

-Claudette Wielechowski, Middle School Library Media Specialist, North Platte, NE

Miss Smith and the Haunted Library

By Michael Garland

Scary monsters are not just under the bed anymore; they can be found in the local library through the enchantment of reading. Miss Smith takes her class on a field trip to the library – the haunted library where Virginia Creeper, the librarian read portions of selected stories out of the *Incredible Storybook*. With each new tale, a gruesome monster appeared and wandered through the library. First it was the Headless Horseman, and then the Hound of the Baskervilles, Marley's Ghost, the Hunchback of Notre Dame, Frankenstein, Count Dracula, Captain Hook, the Wicked Witch of the West, and even a few ghosts flew out of the book. The monsters were frightening, grumpy, obnoxious, repulsive, and scary. The children were shuddering, shaking, and trembling, and then even more monsters appeared! Virginia Creeper suddenly stopped reading and began passing out cookies and apple cider to the class and the monsters; that's when the party began. The monsters were suddenly friendly and the

children began socializing with them in a joyous way. When it was time for the monsters to return to the storybook, each story had to be completed. One by one, the stories came to an end and each grueling character returned to the pages of the book. The children were so inspired by the story that they wanted to read more, and checked out books about the individual monsters.

This is a good read-aloud book that will spark the imaginations of children. The illustrations are awe-inspiring, especially the facial features when the wide-eyed children listen to the story and unsightly monsters appear. The final page of this wonderful book offers a guide for children to locate their favorite monster. For example, Jabberwocky can be found in *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There* by Lewis Carroll.

I would recommend this book for kindergarten through fourth graders in any public or elementary school library.

-Karyn Bijlsma, WSC

Oh, Brother!

By Nikki Grimes

Blended families can truly come together and create a special relationship. In *Oh, Brother!*, two stepbrothers vie for the attention of their own and the other's parent, and jealousy takes over. After a baby sister joins to family, the boys gradually discover the importance and wealth in having a positive relationship and make a pact to be not ordinary stepbrothers, but true brothers forever.

The text is comprised of twenty poems that gradually shift in mood, describing the special relationship that stepbrothers face while on their journey from being rivals to becoming best buddies.

I would recommend this book for ages five to nine in any public library or elementary school library.

-Karyn Bijlsma, WSC

Not Afraid of DOGS

By Susanna Pitzer

Daniel claimed to be the bravest boy of all. He was afraid of nothing, not thunderstorms, not even dogs, but he also adamantly claimed to not like them when all the while he cowered when he saw one. His sister, Jenny, called him a "fraidy cat." Daniel's mother offered to care for Bandit, a very small dog, while his owner was on vacation and Daniel locked himself in his room as a way of avoiding Bandit. During the night, while a thunderstorm was clapping, Daniel needed to use the restroom, only to discover that Bandit was hiding behind the toilet, petrified by the thunder. When Daniel discovered how terrified the dog was, he realized he could sooth the puppy's anxieties by being a friend and he discovered that he really did like dogs after all.

I would recommend this book for ages three to eight, and any public or elementary school library. It contains a touching story about how children can discover their inner-self and work through many problems and fears on their own when they show a little compassion.

-Karyn Bijlsma, WSC

Response

By Paul Volponi

Noah and his friends visit an all white neighborhood with the intention to steal a car. Instead, Noah is the victim of a vicious beating that leaves him with a fractured skull. Was Noah targeted because he was black?

I recommend this book for tenth to twelfth graders in both school and public libraries. It is similar to other books by Paul Volponi, like *Black and White*, *Rooftop*, *Rucker Party*, and *Setup*.

Response was inspired by a real life hate crime. Noah, the victim, works hard not to fall into the "hatred-trap" that has caught so many. He rises above his pain and aspires to be a worthy father to his daughter and an inspiration to his friends and neighbors.

-Holly Troup, Clearwater Public Library

The Small Adventure of Popeye and Elvis

By Barbara O'Connor

Popeye's boring life is transformed when Elvis and his large family, who live in a motor home, get stuck in the mud near Popeye's house. The boys find many adventures together until the day the motor home is moved and Popeye has only his memories.

I recommend this book for middle to upper elementary in both school and public libraries. The book defines vocabulary words used by Popeye and has a fast moving story line. This would be a good book to purchase.

-Sharon Kinnan, WSC

Oscar: The Big Adventure of a Little Sock Monkey

By Amy Schwartz and Leonard S. Marcus

Oscar is a very well loved sock monkey. He lives with his owner, Susie, in an apartment building. Susie takes her rabbit to school for a pet show but forgets the key to its cage and that's when Oscar's adventures begin. He finds the school on a map and takes the subway there. There are a few problems along the way, but he doesn't give up and he finally reaches the auditorium. With great accuracy Oscar drops the key directly into Susie's pocket without her knowing she was even missing it.

I recommend this book for kindergarten through third grade in both school and public libraries. The illustrations are well done with color and patterns to help tell the story.

Who hasn't had a stuffed animal for a best friend? Many children will relate to the relationship between these two main characters have and they will learn about determination and affection.

-Jane Dodson, WSC

Patricia von Pleasantsquirrel

By James Proimos

Patricia uses her wild imagination to fly to her dream place where she can be the princess and do what she wants to do.

Patricia gets a taste of what it's like to be the princess of "The Land of Hippos." After one mistake Patricia is banned from being the princess and chooses to fly back home where there are rules and expectations. Patricia isn't all that sad to be back because she loves her parents, her books, and her fish. I recommend this book for kindergarten through third grade in both school and public libraries. The illustrations were well done and help tell the story. It seems to be a spin-off of *Where the Wild Things Are* (one of Patricia's favorite books). This book is easy to read and understand. It makes references to other children's books so it would be fun to use with the titles mentioned in the story and the kids could make comparisons.

-Jane Dodson, WSC

Grandpa has a Great Big Face

By Warren Hanson

A young boy compares his nose, ears, etc. to his grandfather's. He ends up by comparing heart and the love they have for one another.

I recommend this book for preschool through second grade in both school and public libraries. It had cute pictures and children would enjoy comparing themselves to a grandparent.

-Sharon Kinnan, WSC

The Frogs and Toads All Sang

By Arnold Lobel

This is a collection of poetry (song) about friends.

I recommend it for preschool through third grade in both school and public libraries. It was humorous, with funny illustrations, overall a great collection of poetry.

-Sharon Kinnan, WSC

Dimity Dumpty

By Bob Graham

A spin off of the old story of Humpty Dumpty, his sister is shy and Humpty is outgoing.

I recommend this book for preschool through third grade in both school and public libraries. The cute illustrations go with this humorous story, it would be a great purchase.

-Sharon Kinnan, WSC

J.A. Teddy

By John Alfred Rowe

A little boy is Captain Seallyway, brave pirate. On one of his adventures he loses his beloved bear. Even though he searches everywhere he is unable to find his lost teddy bear. Fortunately the Queen of Fairies tells him an ogre who guards a castle where all the lost teddy bears go with the help of pixies, goblins, & fairies he journeys to the far away castle and overpowers the ogre, saving all the lost teddies and finding his own Teddy.

Recommended age level: 3 - 6yrs old

I would recommend this book for school and public

Just when Captain Scallyway thinks all of his adventures are a dream he finds out that they truly happened after all. This is a very satisfying ending for all those young pretenders.

-Patricia Olson

Creamed Tuna Fish & Peas on Toast

By Philip Christian Stead

Wild Man Jack has certain foods that he will not eat, but of all the foods he dislikes, he dislikes creamed tuna fish and peas on toast the most. His children quiz him daily about what he will do if that particular meal is served. Finally, Mama Jane serves up the dreaded meal and Wild Man Jack is forced to keep his word and do everything he said he would do instead of eating the creamed tuna fish and peas on toast plus one more thing.

Recommended grade level: K – 2nd grade

I would recommend this book for school and public

Readers might expect Wild Man Jack to break down “eat creamed tuna fish and peas on toast” and discover that he really likes it after all. They will be delighted to know that Wild Man Jack stands his ground and makes sure he never has to eat that particular meal again. Because they all probably have a food they would like to do away with.

-Patricia Olson

Addis Berner Bear Forgets

By Joel Stewart

Addis Berner Bear arrives in the city. He found it to be a big, noisy and fast paced. In fact in all the hubbub he totally forgot why he came to the city in the first place. Time went by and Addis Berner Bear could not find anyone to help him find out what he was doing there. He was lost and homeless and became the victim of a crime. Finally, after receiving some help from a stranger Addis Berner Bear remembers why he came to the city in the first place.

Recommended age level: 4 - 8yrs old

I would recommend this book for school and public

Comparisons to other books: I was reminded of another lost bear - Paddington

The illustrations provide many visual cues as to why Addis Berner Bear had come to the city. They show how Addis gets lost in the hustle and bustle. Children and adults alike may relate to Addis' feelings of being overwhelmed and how good it is to find a caring soul who is able to be of assistance.

-Patricia Olson

Brave Charlotte and the Wolves

By Anu Stohner

Brave Charlotte was different from the other sheep. She was daring and adventurous. The old sheep accepted her, but the younger sheep looked at Charlotte with ridicule. The young sheep formed a gang called the wolves. They delighted in tormenting the old sheep dog and terrorizing the lambs with their wolf imitations. However, when confronted with wolf like howls, the “wolf” gang cowers in fear while Charlotte goes to check into the matter.

Recommended age level: 3 - 6yrs old

I would recommend this book for school and public

Charlotte finds a way to teach the sheep in the wolf gang a lesson and cements her place of honor in the flock.

-Patricia Olson